

9. Independence Park – Lothrop Street

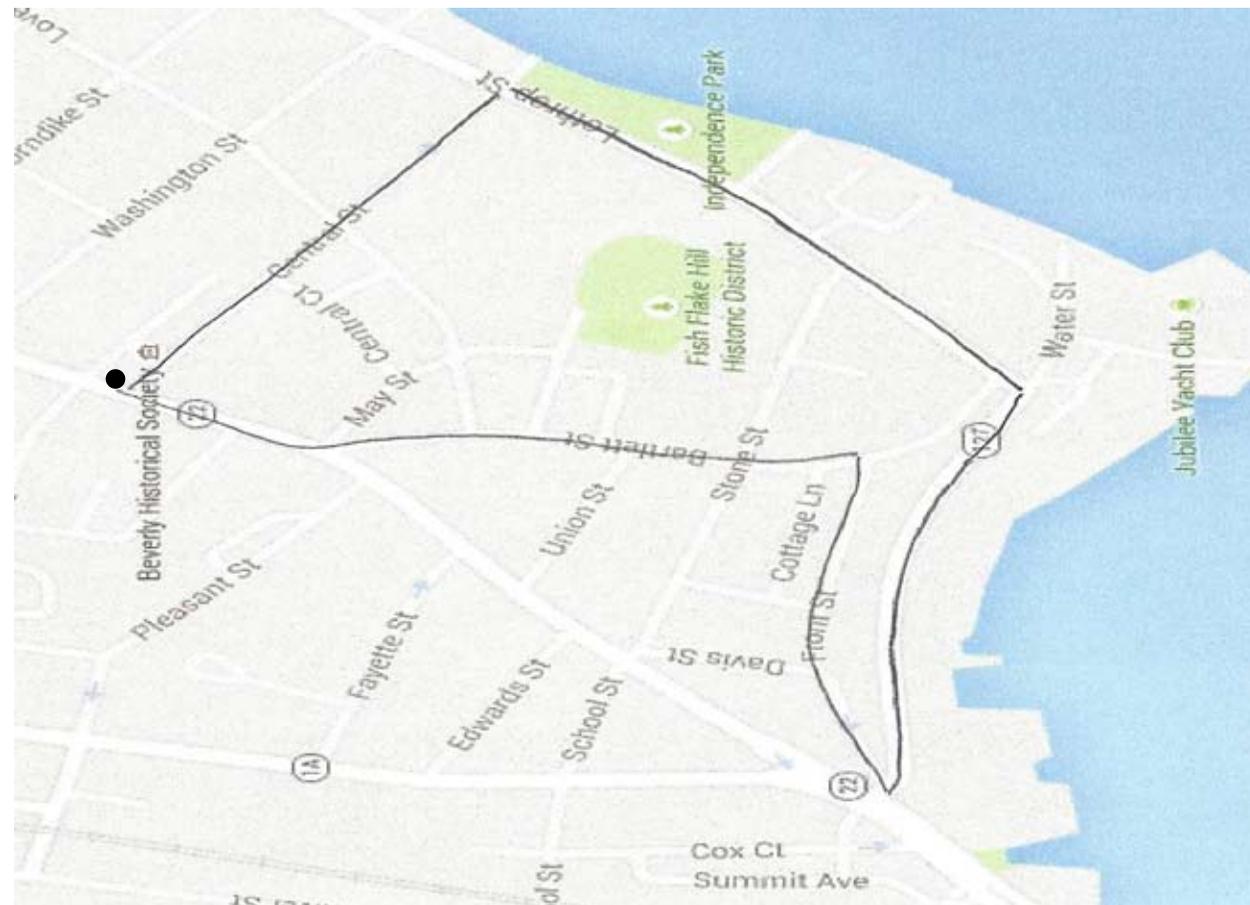
This quiet spot was the site of several exciting events during the Revolution. In October 1775 the British ship *Nautilus* chased the American schooner *Hannah* from the outer harbor, hoping to destroy her. The *Hannah* had been harassing British supply ships trying to enter Boston, occupied by the British. A battle ensued, causing little damage, but causing great fear among coastal residents. As a result Glover's Regiment was stationed here and a coastal watch from the local militia was organized with five fortifications built in Beverly. On July 14, 1776 Colonel Glover assembled his men along with Beverly citizens and read the Declaration of Independence. When the Colonel finished reading, cannon were shot and church bells rang, signaling the beginning of the new country. *Cross Lothrop, walk to Central Street and back to Cabot Street*



Image credits: Cover: Bird's Eye View of Beverly and John Cabot House. Inside: Capt Bartlett House, privateer broadside, painting *Beverly Privateer and Her Prize, St. Pierre, 1776*.

This program was generously supported by the Salem Marine Society - *Where Virtue Reigns the Unfortunate Find Relief*

Beverly Historical Society
117 Cabot Street, Beverly
978-922-1186



• Cabot House [Live Google map](#)

Glossary

Letter of Marque (LM): A government document authorizing an individual to arm a ship and capture the merchant ships and property of an enemy nation.

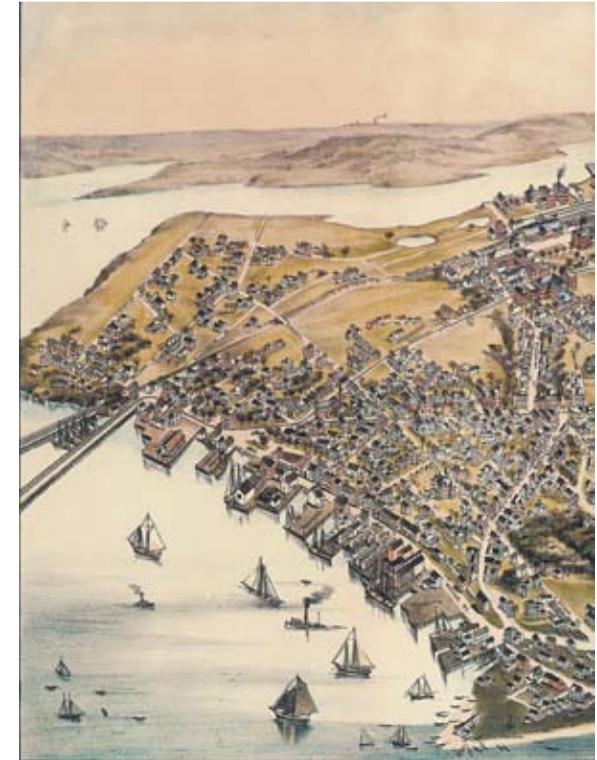
Privateer: A privately owned and manned armed ship commissioned by a belligerent government to attack and capture enemy ships, especially merchant ships. Also individuals - commander or crew member of a privateer vessel was call a privateer.

Washington's Fleet: Need for American sea power was evident to General Washington soon after he took command at Cambridge in July 1775. He ordered the regiments to report names of those expert "in the management of whaleboats." Crews were mustered and vessels outfitted to sail against British merchant ships.

Wharf: A structure built at the shore for ships to lie alongside during loading or unloading a cargo. Wharfage indicated the port facilities, like buildings used for storing goods, as well as the fees charged to use the wharf.

The Privateer Trail

Beverly's Revolutionary Era Maritime History



Beverly Historical Society



1. John Cabot House, (1781)– *117 Cabot Street*
Constructed by merchant ship owner John Cabot in 1781, it was the first brick residence in Beverly. During the Revolution, John Cabot and his brothers, Andrew and George, and brother-in-law Joseph Lee were part owners of 40 privateer vessels sailing from the Cabot Wharf. *Turn south on Cabot Street toward Salem; walk to Bartlett Street.*

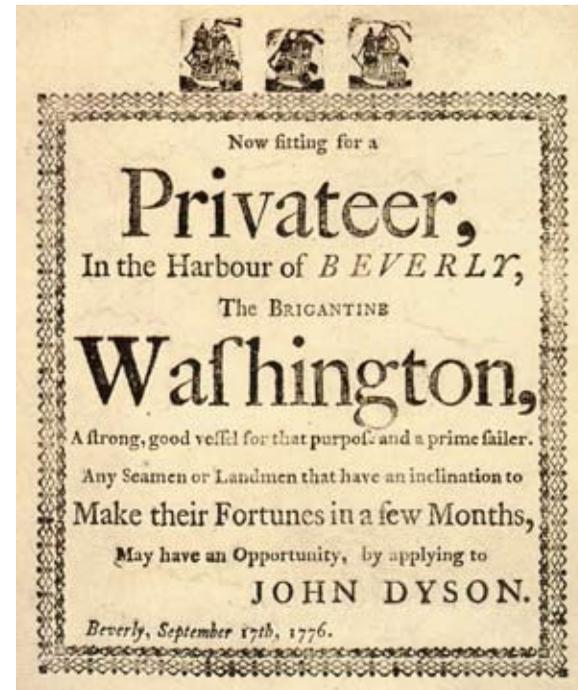


2. Bartlett Street
Named for Captain William Bartlett who was active in town affairs and a merchant and wharf owner; his house (above) stood on this street and was later moved to Pleasant Street. In the summer of 1775 General Washington named Bartlett as the Continental prize agent for Beverly. He was responsible for selling captured vessels and their cargos and received a percentage of each sale. Several homes on this street belonged to men who served in the war, including #13 the Gage House and #19 the Jacob Thompson House (1770). Zachariah Gage commanded the letter of marque (LM) brigs *Success* (1778) and *Chance* (1781). The *Chance* was one of many vessels owned by John and Andrew Cabot. Thompson served in Captain Moses Brown's seacoast company in 1775 and later was a seaman aboard the privateer *Resource*, first under Captain Richard Ober and later Captain Israel Thorndike. *Continue on Bartlett, turn right onto Front Street. (1st right after Cottage Lane)*

3. Front Street
Captain Hugh Hill House, ca 1789 – *50 Front Street* was the home of Beverly's most successful privateer. The house was built with funds garnered from the proceeds of dozens of privateer auctions which earned Hugh Hill's employers, the Cabot brothers, and the captain himself, a huge fortune. Hill commanded the famous privateers *Pilgrim* and *Cicero*, and captured seventeen vessels between 1776 and 1783, ranking him as one of the Bay State's greatest privateers. In one cruise in 1779 Hill and his crew took eight prizes in just six weeks. *Continue down Front Street.*

Josiah Batchelder, Jr. a fervent patriot, lived at *23 Front*; he was a member of the Committee of Correspondence and Safety, served six terms in the legislature and in the Provincial Congress. #*20 Front*, Dixey's Tavern and *8-10 Front*, Stone's Inn, (1734) - There were numerous inns and taverns which catered to privateer crews and Continental soldiers who frequented Beverly, these are two of the survivors. Briscoe's Warehouse at *7 Front Street* was built in 1701 by Robert Briscoe. This building has housed commercial enterprises for over 300 years. During the Revolution Captain Thomas Davis outfitted privateers from this location. *Cross the street to the sign "Please enjoy this Public Way" and walk to the end of the boardwalk.*

4. Ellingwood's Wharf and Ferry Landing
From 1636 to 1788 the area to the right was the landing for the Beverly/Salem ferry. The first bridge was built in 1788. Ebenezer Ellingwood, Jr. was in charge of the ferry during the Revolution. He also ran a tavern and owned a large wharf which served as the base for nine privateers. In the mid-eighteenth century there were twenty wharves and many warehouses lining the waterfront. A hundred years later, Beverly's maritime heyday was over and the wharf area was filled. The buildings that you see here today are built on that fill.



5. Batchelder's and Lovett's Wharves
Look to the left. Josiah Batchelder held a part interest in the LM schooner *Driver* and three privateers: *Fish Hawk*, *Retaliation*, and *Warren*. The latter two were unusually successful, bringing eleven prize vessels into Beverly during 1776-1777. James Lovett served as senior officer or commander of three privateer vessels sailing from this wharf. He was also a prisoner of war, captured in 1781. *Return to Water Street and turn right.*

6. Samuel Herrick's House and Inn, 1764 – *56 Water Street*
Samuel Herrick's house is one of the few 18th century buildings still standing on Water Street. Herrick rented rooms in this building to ship captains and Continental officers during the war, a practice continued by his family after his death. Tragically, he went down with his ship in 1773. The property also included a wharf across the street. *Continue along Water Street. Watch for the walkway on the right with the sign: "Please enjoy this Public Way" follow the boardwalk to the end.*

7. Glover's Wharf, Cabot's Wharf, Bartlett's Wharf, and Union Wharf
To the right from the harbor-end of the boardwalk is the location of Glover's Wharf. Colonel John Glover of Marblehead purchased his Beverly wharf in 1774. In 1775 General George Washington ordered Glover to outfit a small fleet of schooners to prey upon British shipping bound into occupied Boston. On September 5th the 68-foot schooner *Hannah* sailed as the first official armed vessel of the United Colonies. The harbor became Washington's Naval Base during 1775 and 1776. Nearby was Cabot's Wharf, owned by Andrew, George and John Cabot, Joseph Lee, and William Bartlett. The Cabots became the second wealthiest family in Massachusetts as a result of their privateering efforts. William Bartlett, in addition to shares in Cabot's Wharf, owned his own warehouse/wharf. Here he inventoried and sold goods from captured British ships. In 1777 Bartlett turned to privateering and sent some thirteen armed vessels to sea. The space beyond Bartlett's Wharf, near the present-day Jubilee Yacht Club, was occupied by Union Wharf, built in 1733. Just beyond at Tuck's Point stood a fortification used to defend the harbor from the British, manned by men of the 14th Regiment and led by Colonel John Glover. *Return to Water Street*

8. Women's Protest – Water Street
During the Revolution a rum distillery and warehouse, owned by the Cabot brothers, stood on Water Street. In November of 1777, a group of about 60 women, protesting the unwillingness of Beverly merchants to accept Continental paper currency, organized a protest. The women broke into Cabot's warehouse and removed two barrels of sugar, then paid for the merchandise in paper money. From that point onward, the newly-enlightened Beverly merchants agreed to sell their goods to Beverly citizens at the stipulated price in exchange for paper money. *Continue along Water Street and turn left onto Lothrop Street, walk to Independence Park.*